Paulsen's private data network corresponds to the network node of claim1. However, this interpretation is inconsistent with *Paulsen's* teaching. When *Paulsen's* remote user attempts to connect to a private data network, the remote user first connects to a host computer. (*See, e.g.,* col. 5:16-21; 5:60-63.) However, once the connection is made, *Paulsen's* host computer does not receive a request from the remote user to assume the identity of the host computer. Instead, "the remote client is treated as a node of the private network." (*See, e.g.,* col. 5:23-24.)

To permit the remote client to operate within the private data network, *Paulsen* discloses that the host computer creates a new virtual node on the network that enables the user to "use the private network in any manner that a user directly connected to the private network can." (Col. 5:33-34.) Thus, rather than permit the remote client to assume the identity of the host computer, *Paulsen* discloses a system in which the remote client's identity is made to appear virtually within the private data network, as though the remote client were directly connected. Therefore, not only does *Paulsen's* remote client never request to assume the identity of the host computer, it never actually does so.

The Examiner maintains that *Paulsen* assigns a user the identity of a pre-authorized machine (*See, e.g.,* Office Action, ¶ 3 (citing col. 5:9-30); ¶ 4 (citing 5:16-25; 16:16-21).) Respectfully, the Examiner is mistaken. *Paulsen* teaches or suggests nothing of the kind. On the contrary, when a remote client connects to *Paulsen's* private data network, the remote client becomes a <u>virtual node</u> on the host computer so that the "remote client may access any of the resources of the private network as if the remote client was an actual physical node of the private network." (*See* col. 16:46-50; *see also* 16:16-20, col. 15:59-67, 13:39-62, 9:20-25.) *Paulsen* does not assign the identity of any existing network node to a remote client. *Paulsen* instead creates a virtual node that enables the remote client to appear <u>as itself</u> on the private network. For at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentable over *Paulsen* and should be allowed.

Claims 2-18 recite similar subject matter and are therefore patentable over *Paulsen* for the same reasons as claim 1. Claims 2-18 should be allowed as well.
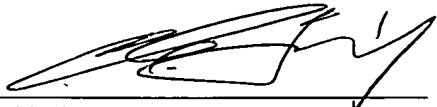
Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable action is earnestly solicited. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional

fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any aspect of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

By: _____

Clyde E. Findley (Reg. No. 50,724)

Date: _Sept. 7, 2004_

KENYON & KENYON
1500 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 220-4200

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